

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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*Published by the Commission on Public Relations
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

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CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 24-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 177

December 1, 1960

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CHANGES BEING MADE IN IBC KYODAN ORGANIZATIONAL SET-UP

The Cooperative Evangelism Committee (CEC) has been almost completely absorbed into the Kyodan's Evangelism Committee on the headquarters' level. While local CEC's still exist, the headquarters or Central Cooperative Evangelism Committee has given over practically all of its responsibilities to the Kyodan. The matter of Missionary Work Funds and the stationing of missionaries are the only two items remaining in CEC hands. Since the CEC has thus disappeared, it was suggested that the Cooperative Educational Committee and the Cooperative Social Work Committee be absorbed into similar bodies to the Kyodan's Evangelism Committee. The CoC approved this principle on November 24. The CEC will turn over its responsibilities to the Association of IBC Related Schools, and the CSWC will turn over its responsibilities to the Christian Social Work League. It is envisioned that in one year the CEC, the CEdC, and the CSWC will be no longer in existence on the headquarters level. This will mean that these bodies which exist on the local level will no longer have a "head" at the top. To take the place of the three committees on the local level, area conferences will be held next year bringing evangelistic, educational, and social work personnel together with a view to founding cooperative, CoC type bodies on the local level. The church, schools, and social work institutions may thus work in closer harmony, not only on the headquarters level, but on the local level as well.

The matter of missionary work funds and the stationing of missionaries will be taken over by a central committee, perhaps the successor

to the basic policies commission. This will bring these matters under one head rather than the three heads which prevailed before. This committee will operate as a sub-committee of the Central CoC. It will create one sub-committee of limited membership where there were formerly three committees of extensive membership. It will save time, money, and much energy that has been expended because of duplication.

Up until now the CoC has been a consultative body. From now on it is hoped that the CoC will extend guidance and counsel to church, education, social work, and IBC (NY) elements of its makeup. The CoC will take increasing responsibility in matters of cooperation between the four component parts of its body. This includes an overall view to financial expenditures, surveys, cooperative conferences, etc. Real Creative Thinking should be one of the services of the CoC as this relates to cooperation among schools, church, social work institutions, and the IBC.

FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE HELD NOVEMBER 14 - 16

The Family Life Movement section of the NCC's Department of Women's Work and the Home sponsored the conference, which was the fourth of its kind conducted by the department. The theme of the conference was "Family Relations in Modern Society." Fifty delegates from all over Japan gathered at Atami.

Professor Eiichi Isomura of Tokyo Municipal University spoke on the organization of the family in modern society. He noted that the relation between the parents and the children is becoming looser and the close-knitness of the family is being lost. The individuals become as isolated persons in modern society. The image of mass communication has a great influence on the family life. The Christian in Japan should protect the relation of the members in the family and try to preserve the intimacy of the family group life. Professor Haruo Tsuru, Dean of Students at ICU, spoke on the practical side of student life in college. He said that the modern youth is very naive, only his ideas are adult. He stressed the responsibility of the parents in their development.

In the discussion periods, there was a marked difference of outlook between those couples in the middle age and above, and the young couples. Among the other things discussed, the problem of the husband developing relationships with another woman outside the home was discussed. To encourage and stimulate home life a course on leadership training is being planned and it was stressed that a curriculum for family life is also important.

TWENTY-TWO CHRISTIAN CANDIDATES ELECTED TO THE DIET

In the last election 22 of the 467 members elected to the House of Representatives were Christian. Eight are members of the Liberal Party, 12 are members of the Socialist Party and 2 represent the markedly decreased Social Democrat Party. The denominational breakdown shows that 14 are Kyoden related, 2 are members of the Episcopal Church, 1 is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1 is from the Presbyterian Church, not Kyoden related, 2 are from the non-church movement and 2 are members of the Roman Catholic Church.

Rev. Mr. Sekikazu Nishimura of the Shiga Prefecture near Kyoto ran for the second time and polled the highest number of votes in the prefecture. Mr. Motojiro Sugiyama, was former vice-chairman in the Socialist Party and is a graduate of the Tohoku Gakuin Theology department. Professor Yoshio Suzuki of the Social Democrat Party is teaching in Aoyama Gakuin College and was the Minister of Justice in the post-war Socialist Party Cabinet. Mr. Jotaro Kawakami, councillor of the Socialist Party, who was stabbed during the Spring anti-security pact demonstrations, was re-elected. Mr. Tokutaro Kitamura, well-known in Christian circles, was not re-elected.

JAPAN CHURCH WORLD SERVICE ORGANIZING CONSULTATION ON NEW FORMS OF SERVICE

It was decided at the NCC Administrative Meeting held on November 9 that the entire responsibility of holding a consultation on new forms of service under the rapid social change be given to the Japan Church World Service. The first preparatory meeting was held on November 25 with another preparatory meeting scheduled for January. Outlines of the lectures and translations of preparatory booklets will be prepared for the Consultation which will be held for three days in March, or if possible in May. Dr. M. M. Thomas of India, and Rev. Alan Brash of England, will attend and take part in the consultation. Areas to be considered are: the impact of rapid social change and the churches' social responsibility, the ethical problems arising out of rapid social change, evaluation of the existing pattern of service in Japan and consideration of new forms of service.

UNITED CHURCH EVANGELISM IN THE NEW DECADE

The Evangelism Committee of the United Church held a conference under the leadership of Rev. Ken Saeki, chairman and Rev. Saburo Shiba, vice-chairman from December 7 to 9 at Lacey Hall in Tokyo. About fifty members, including the chairman of the 14 districts and the special departments met to decide the basic policy for 1961. Previously, each department made its own policy but now it is the function of the General Secretary to make policy. Instead of deciding policy each year, a longer range 10 year plan will be made and then within that framework the one year plans will be made. The aims and objects from the General Assembly.

Two speeches from Dr. Krueger's report were emphasized at the conference: the need for self-renewal of the members of the church and the need to think out and take a creative role in the approach to society.

The Rev. Mr. Saeki said that the conclusions of Dr. Krueger's report were not so startling to the Japanese leaders for they had come to the same conclusions, but that he had arrived at the same conclusions independently was very surprising to them. Mr. Saeki said more concern must be given to the aim, purpose and method of evangelism. We must think out how we are to transmit this Gospel that we have been given.

